

# Lead Prevention Quarterly Newsletter

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE  
Extension

Family and Consumer Sciences

Volume 1 Number 1

2005

Web sites to  
check out:

Consumer Product  
Safety Commission  
[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

CDC's lead  
poisoning  
[www.cdc.gov/nceh/  
lead/lead.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/lead.htm)

For questions about  
the lead program  
please contact:

Courtney Niemann, MS  
Extension Assistant  
119 Morgan Hall  
Knoxville, TN  
37996-4501

Office 865-974-8178

Fax 865-974-5370

[cniemann@utk.edu](mailto:cniemann@utk.edu)

## Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP)

**Mission of CLPPP-** To create and promote public and private partnerships and eliminate childhood lead poisoning in Tennessee by the year 2010.

**Statement of Purpose-** To eliminate lead hazards by 2010. This includes the goal of no child less than six years of age having a blood lead level  $\geq$  10ug/dL by 2010.

## Lead Poisoning

Although the United States government banned the use of lead-based paint in homes nearly a quarter of a century ago, the risk of lead poisoning in children remains a serious health issue. Currently, one out of every six children have blood lead levels (BLLS) above 10 micrograms per deciliter (ug/dL), the current standard for identifying children at risk. Several surveys show that childhood lead poisoning occurs in all population groups. A higher risk was associated with low income/poverty, living in older housing and belonging to certain racial and ethnic groups.

Children are exposed to lead in a variety of ways-through lead paint, lead dust, contaminated soil and lead pipes. Young children and infants appear to be particularly vulnerable to lead poisoning because of their increased physical development and their hand to mouth behavior.

Lead poisoning can be responsible for anemia, intestinal ailments, disrupted sleep, immune system damage and learning problems. Although lead poisoning is known to cause behavioral changes, it is nearly impossible to diagnosis without a blood test.

Childhood lead poisoning can be prevented. Education on the causes and how it effects a child's development and behavior is critical for preventive actions to occur. Irreversible changes in a child's metabolism and IQ can occur if the child's BLL leave is higher than the standard (10ug/dL) and no action is taken.

## Did you know.....

A child can become severely lead poisoned by eating one milligram of lead-paint dust (60-80 ug/dl), which is equivalent to about three granules of sugar each day during childhood. To achieve a blood-lead level of 36ug/dl, a child would have to eat just the equivalent of one granule of sugar a day.